

# California MEDICINE

DETROIT 26, MICHIGAN

## EDITORIAL

### California Medicine Takes A New Look

IN THE PAST six and a half years an attempt has been made to develop the scientific side of CALIFORNIA MEDICINE so that it would be truly representative of the best of medicine in California. With the interest and cooperation of the Editorial Board and Editorial Office this has been accomplished to some extent. At the direction of the Council of the C.M.A. and beginning with this issue of January 1953, the organizational side of CALIFORNIA MEDICINE will be further developed to reflect as accurately as possible the official position and views of the California Medical Association on problems which vitally affect all aspects of medicine, and to report events and developments throughout the state and the country which bear significantly on the practice of medicine, on medical education, on medicine in government and government in medicine.

In the further development of the organizational side of this Journal, the Editor and the Editorial Board will welcome criticisms and helpful suggestions.

With this issue, consideration is given to two highly important problems facing the physicians of California. One of the most important issues of the day in the practice of medicine relates to the free choice of physicians by patients. We hold that the free choice of a physician by a patient is essential for the best medical care and for an adequate physician-patient relationship. To whatever extent this principle is compromised, there is likely to be proportional deterioration in medical care and, all too often, an increase in the cost of that care. Closed panel forms of practice do not permit free choice of physician and in other ways tend to cause deterioration of the best in medical care. A more complete consideration of this most important problem is

noted in the editorial entitled "A Defense Against Socialized Medicine"?

So that many physicians in California may become acquainted at first hand with the very significant report of an eighteen months' study by a special committee to consider the desires of the California Medical Association in relation to C.P.S. and voluntary health insurance, there is published in this issue the full report of the Bailey Committee, given to the House of Delegates at its Interim Session in December 1952. This thought-provoking report should be discussed fully in every county medical society throughout the state, so that in May 1953, when the House of Delegates reconvenes in Los Angeles, the members of the House will be well informed of the views of their constituents and prepared to take appropriate action.

## CALIFORNIA MEDICINE

OWNED AND PUBLISHED BY THE  
CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

450 SUTTER, SAN FRANCISCO 8 • PHONE DOUGLAS 2-0062

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